

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi MINAGAWA et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/084,322  
Filed : February 28, 2002  
For : ELECTRONIC COMIC VIEWING APPARATUS AND METHOD  
AND RECORDING MEDIUM

Group Art Unit : 2671  
Examiner : K. NGUYEN  
Confirmation No. : 6743

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed on December 13, 2002 and June 7, 2002, Applicants hereby submit a copy of a Notice of Reasons for Rejection that was mailed on October 19, 2004, with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-059345, together with an English language translation of the same, in which the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-240953, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-249130, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-20770, together with an English language translation of the same; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,069,622. Applicants note that this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement and thus a copy is not being provided herewith.

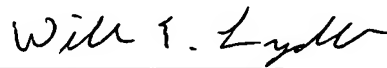
The relevance of which each document, as ascertained by the Japanese Examiner are set forth in the Notice of Reasons for Rejection.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. A copy of the Notice of Reasons for Rejection and its English language translation are also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that a Request for Continued Examination is being submitted herewith and thus no fee is required to ensure consideration of the submitted documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to  
contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hiroshi MINAGAWA et al.

 William E. Lyddane  
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January 27, 2005  
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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Reference No.: 01P00007      Mailing No. : 372741  
Mailing date: October 19, 2004

### NOTICE OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No.: 2001-059345  
Drafting Date:              October 6, 2004.  
JPO Examiner:              Shin BABA      9743 5E00  
Attorney for Applicant: Osamu AKITA et al.  
Applied Provision:          Article 29, Paragraph 1  
   Article 29, Paragraph 2

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The present application should be refused for the reason mentioned below. If the applicant has any argument against the reason, such argument should be submitted within 60 days from the date on which this notification was mailed.

#### Reasons

A. The invention according to the following claims should not be granted a patent under the provision of Patent Law Article 29, Paragraph 1, section 3, because the invention is disclosed in the following publication distributed in Japan before the filing of the application.

B. The invention according to the following claims should not be granted a patent under the provision of Patent Law Article 29, Paragraph 2, because it could easily have been made by a person having the general knowledge in the field of the invention before the filing of the application based on the invention disclosed in the following distributed publication in Japan before the filing of the application.

Note (Refer to List of cited documents regarding cited documents)

<Regarding Reasons A and B>

Claims    1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25

·Cited document 1

·Remarks

Refer to claims 1 and 4 in the cited document 1

·Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28

·Cited document 2

·Remarks

Refer to claim 1, fig. 6 and the explanation thereof, and paragraph [0035] (displaying a balloon with a displaying effect like RESOLVE (displaying the resolved balloon, that is, a case is suggested where the letters are displayed one by one)) in the cited document 2.

·Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28

·Cited document 3

·Remarks

Refer to the claim 1, [0036] and [0043] in the cited document 3

<Regarding Reason B>

·Claims 2, 9, 16, 23

·Cited documents any of 1-3

·Remarks

A technique of displaying frames one by one is well-known (refer to, for example, Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-240903, [0004] (controlling a display by a frame unit) and a CD-ROM of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 05-050790 (Japanese Utility Model Application Publication No. 07-016238), etc.).

·Claims 3, 10, 17, 24

·Cited documents any of 1-3

·Remarks

Since fade-in processing and fade-out processing are well known as a method for improving visual effects, conducting these processings to a predetermined frame is nothing but a matter set up by the skilled in the art properly.

- Claims 4, 11, 18, 25
- Cited documents 2 or 3, and 1
- Remarks

Cited document 1 describes a technique of preparing text data in different languages as a frame, and displaying a frame in a selected language (claims 4, [0025] etc.).

Therefore, it can be easily invented by a person having the general knowledge in the field of the invention to apply the technique disclosed in the cited document 1 to the invention disclosed in the cited document 2 or 3 to make the present invention.

- Claims 5, 12, 19, 26
- Cited documents 1 or 3
- Remarks

Displaying words one by one is nothing but a matter set up by the skilled in the art properly.

- Claims 6, 13, 20, 27
- Cited documents any of 1-3
- Remarks

Since fade-in processing and fade-out processing are well known as a method for improving visual effects, conducting these processings to the words is nothing but a matter set up by the skilled in the art properly.

- Claims 7, 14, 21, 28
- Cited documents 1, 2 or 3
- Remarks

The cited documents 2 and 3 describe a technique of displaying the words in an order.

Therefore, it can be easily made by a person having the general knowledge in the field of the invention to apply the technique disclosed in the cited document 2 or 3 to the invention disclosed in the cited document 1 to make the present invention.

List of Cited Documents

1. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H10-240953
  2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H07-249130
  3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H07-020770
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Records of Prior Art Document Search Result

·Prior Art

The U. S. Patent No. 6069622 specification

The records of the prior art document search results are not included in the reasons for refusal.

Contact regarding this notification of reasons for refusal and request for interview.

Patent Examination Fourth Division, Interface Shin BABA  
TEL: 03-3581-1101 ext. 3520 FAX: 03-3580-6907



# 拒絶理由通知書

特許出願の番号	特願2001-059345
起案日	平成16年10月 6日
特許庁審査官	馬場 慎 9743 5E00
特許出願人代理人	秋田 修(外 1名) 様
適用条文	第29条第1項、第29条第2項

この出願は、次の理由によって拒絶をすべきものである。これについて意見があれば、この通知書の発送の日から60日以内に意見書を提出して下さい。

## 理 由

A. この出願の下記の請求項に係る発明は、その出願前日本国内において頒布された下記 of 刊行物に記載された発明であるから、特許法第29条第1項第3号に該当し、特許を受けることができない。

B. この出願の下記の請求項に係る発明は、その出願前日本国内において頒布された下記 of 刊行物に記載された発明に基づいて、その出願前にその発明の属する技術の分野における通常の知識を有する者が容易に発明をすることができたものであるから、特許法第29条第2項の規定により特許を受けることができない。

記 (引用文献等については引用文献等一覧参照)

## <理由A、Bに対して>

- ・請求項 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25
- ・引用文献等 1
- ・備考  
引用文献1の請求項1、4等を参照。

- ・請求項 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28
- ・引用文献等 2
- ・備考

引用文献2の請求項1、図6及びその説明箇所、【0035】(リゾルブなどの表示効果ををもたせて吹き出しを表示する(吹き出しを分解して表示する、す

なわち、一文字ずつ表示する場合が示唆されている)) 旨等を参照。

- ・請求項 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28
- ・引用文献等 3
- ・備考

引用文献3の請求項1、【0036】、【0043】等を参照。

<理由Bに対して>

- ・請求項 2, 9, 16, 23
- ・引用文献等 1-3の何れか
- ・備考

各コマを一コマずつ表示する技術は周知である(例えば、特開平10-240903号公報の【0004】(コマ単位により表示制御を行う旨)、実願平05-050790号(実開平07-016238号)のCD-ROM等を参照)。

- ・請求項 3, 10, 17, 24
- ・引用文献等 1-3の何れか
- ・備考

視覚効果を高める手法として、フェードイン処理、フェードアウト処理は周知の技術であるから、所定のコマに対しこれらの処理を行うことは、適宜なし得る事項であるものと認められる。

- ・請求項 4, 11, 18, 25
- ・引用文献等 2又は3, 1
- ・備考

引用文献1には、吹き出しとして言語の異なる文字データを用意し、選択された言語にて吹き出しを表示する技術が記載されている(請求項4、【0025】等)。

したがって、引用文献2又は3記載の発明に対し、引用文献1記載の技術を適用することで、本願発明とすることは、当業者にとって容易に想到し得るものと認められる。

- ・請求項 5, 12, 19, 26
- ・引用文献等 1又は3
- ・備考

セリフを1文字ずつ表示することは、適宜なし得る事項であるものと認められる。

- ・請求項 6, 13, 20, 27
- ・引用文献等 1-3の何れか
- ・備考

視覚効果を高める手法として、フェードイン処理、フェードアウト処理は周知の技術であるから、セリフに対しこれらの処理を行うことは、適宜なし得る事項であるものと認められる。

- ・請求項 7, 14, 21, 28
- ・引用文献等 1, 2又は3
- ・備考

引用文献2及び3には、順番にしたがってセリフを表示する技術が記載されている。

したがって、引用文献1記載の発明に対し、引用文献2又は3に記載の技術を適用することで、本願発明とすることは、当業者にとって容易に想到し得るものと認められる。

#### 引用文献等一覧

- 1.特開平10-240953号公報
- 2.特開平07-249130号公報
- 3.特開平07-020770号公報

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#### 先行技術文献調査結果の記録

- ・先行技術文献

米国特許第6069622号明細書

この先行技術文献調査結果の記録は、拒絶理由を構成するものではない。

この拒絶理由通知の内容に関するお問い合わせ、または面接のご希望がございましたら下記までご連絡下さい。

特許審査第四部 インターフェイス 馬場 慎  
TEL. 03(3581)1101 内線3520 FAX. 03(3580)6907